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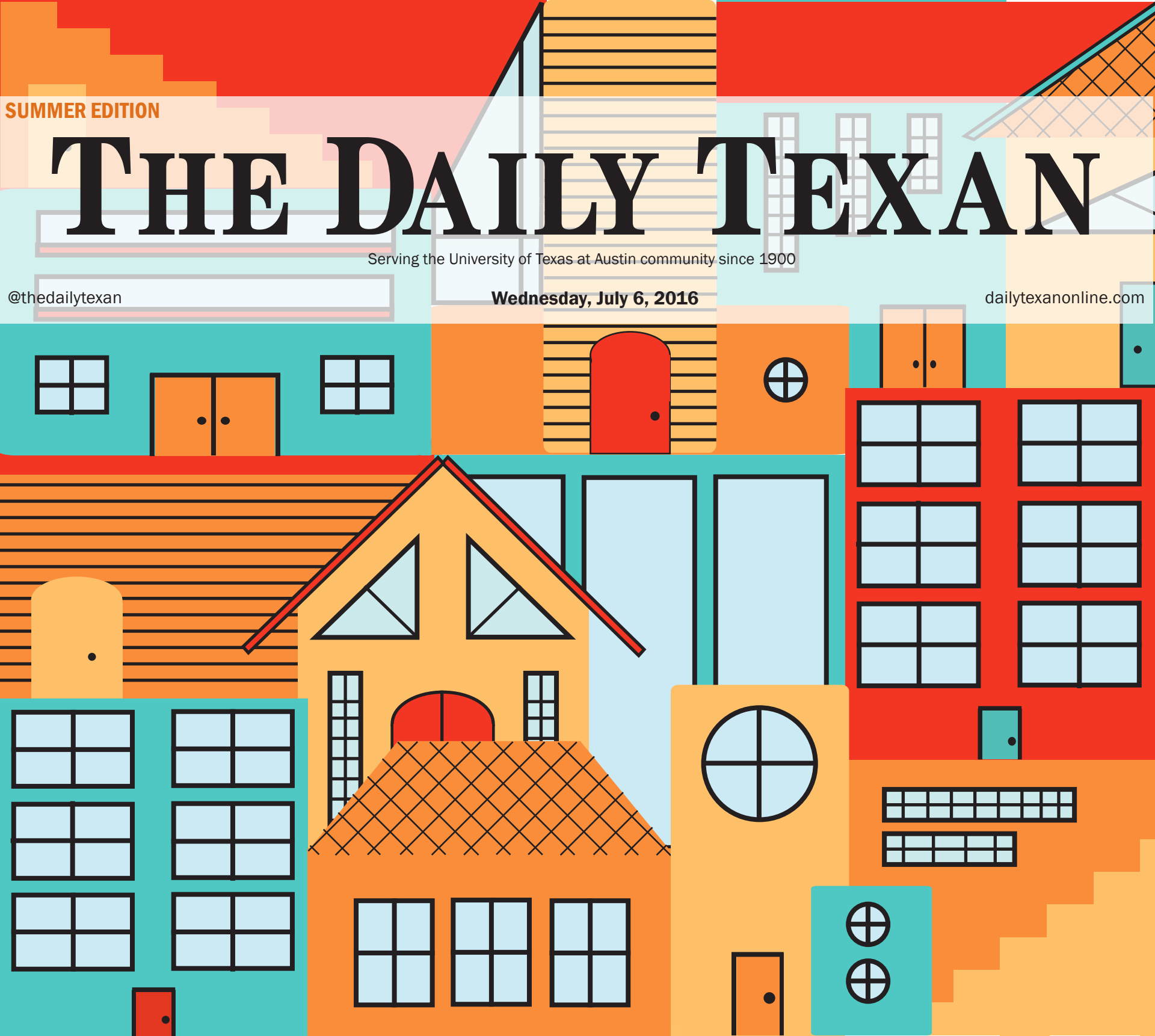
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HIGH-RISE

NEW COMPLEXES ARE GOING UP IN WEST CAMPUS WHILE OTHER STUDENTS STRUGGLE TO FIND ON-CAMPUS HOUSING. **PAGE 6**

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COVER GRAPHIC

Kelly Smith

Who would want tours of rat people?

CITY

Attorneys discuss Criner's competency for trial

By Catherine Marfin

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As the July 8 pretrial motions hearing for Meechaiel Khalil Criner — the suspect in the death of UT dance freshman Haruka Weiser — approaches, experts are debating what role his mental health will play during the trial.

On June 10, a Travis County grand jury indicted Criner on capital murder charges in the death of Weiser. The indictment accuses Criner of sexually assaulting Weiser and

killing her by strangulation with “a ligature, a deadly weapon” and includes other charges, including attempted kidnapping and robbery.

As details of the murder continue to unfold, Criner's complex family history has surfaced.

Criner was shuffled between his maternal grandmother's care and Child Protective Services for most of his life. According to his sister and grandmother, who spoke to local news stations in early April,

Criner was mentally ill and had been getting psychiatric help since childhood, KXAN reported.

“He's smart, real intelligent,” Mary Wadley, Criner's grandmother, told KSLA News 12 in April. “But he had a problem, he talks to himself and walks back and forth like he's fighting himself.”

Ariel Payan, Criner's court-appointed attorney, and the rest of his defense team are expected to continue discussing the collection of evidence and other issues that need to be resolved through pretrial hearings before the case moves to trial.

In felony crimes, there is no “rule of thumb” for the timeline of cases, but two law experts said the case could go to trial in less than a year and could potentially take as little as a week to try.

Criminals in Texas are tried as adults starting at age 17 but because of a 2005 Supreme Court decision, the death penalty cannot be given to minors. Therefore, if he is convicted, Criner will automatically be sentenced to life in prison — with the possibility of parole after 40 years.

Because of speculation

concerning Criner's mental health, the defense team could potentially make a case for one of two claims: incompetency to stand trial or insanity at the time of the offense.

“Competency to stand trial relates to his mental ability to communicate with his lawyer ... and understand the roles of the various players in the courtroom,” said Gerry Morris, an Austin criminal defense attorney who has been practicing for nearly 40 years. “[Insanity] deals with his ability at the time of the offense to appreciate the wrongness of his act.”

If Criner were deemed incompetent to stand trial, the court would order Criner to seek professional treatment, putting the trial on hold until he regains competency. If the jury or judge decide Criner was insane at the time of the offense, he would be declared “not guilty by reason of insanity,” and would likely be housed in an inpatient facility and be under court supervision for most of the remainder of his life.

Both claims require evaluation from mental health care professionals.

“It's very easy for a

defendant to be tested for competency, because the specialists appointed are better than they have ever been,” said Keith Hampton, an Austin criminal defense lawyer who has been practicing for over 25 years. “The experts are kept at a high standard — they are required to be specialists in forensic psychology and have to consistently update their education.”

In insanity claims, however, mental health experts testify during the actual trial, making the case “a battle of the experts,” according to Morris. This claim, however, could be easy for the prosecutor to refute because Criner was found burning evidence connected to the murder, Morris said.

Criner and his defense team could also opt for a plea bargain. However, this is unlikely because Criner would automatically be sentenced to life in prison with the chance of parole after 40 years if convicted, which he could be sentenced too even without a plea bargain. The jury could also determine Criner is not guilty of murder, but guilty of the lesser crimes included in the capital murder charge.

THE DAILY TEXAN

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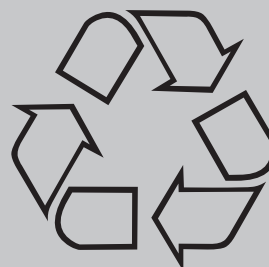
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BUSINESS

Department of Transportation cracks down on illegal ridehailing

By Van Nguyen

@nguyen_van

The Austin Department of Transportation began contacting undercover operators to hand out citations to arcade City drivers, who the department says are violating city laws. Arcade City is an online app that cuts out the middleman to connect drivers with passengers directly. They don't consider themselves a transportation network company (TNC), and believe drivers should be free to make their own choices including whether to opt out of government regulations or not, according to their website. The operation occurred on June 17. The driver was given a citation for operating

without a valid operating authority or a valid chauffeur's permit.

Christopher David, founder of Arcade City, denounced the actions of the transportation department in a Facebook post shortly after the incident.

"You had to go lie on the ticket, and say that she was 'employed' by 'Arcade,'" David said in the post. "They're not contractors, there's no legal affiliation there."

A TNC according to Austin City Code Chapter 13-2 is "an organization, whether a corporation, partnership, sole proprietor, or other form, which provides on-demand transportation services for compensation using an online-enabled application (app) or platform to connect passengers with drivers."

Compensation, according to city code Chapter 13-2, is "any money, thing of value, payment, consideration, reward, tip, donation, gratuity, or profit paid to, accepted, or received by the driver or owner of any vehicle providing transportation for a person, or persons; whether paid upon solicitation, demand or contract, or voluntarily, or intended as a gratuity or donation."

Since the departure of Uber and Lyft from Austin, several TNCs have popped up including Fare, Fasten, Get Me, Wingz, Z-Trip, InstaRide and Ride Austin. In

response to concerns regarding driver profits, Arcade City is different from these TNCs because 100 percent of the money given to the driver is theirs to keep.

DeWayne Perry, electrical and computer engineering senior, drives for Arcade City because driving for the alternatives means less profit for him.

"I'm having a difficult time trying to see how I can make more money at other platforms when Arcade City [doesn't] take anything out of the money I make," Perry said.

Eric Green, Texas Regional Director of Arcade City, says he has tried to contact the City of Austin twice now, but the city has not responded.

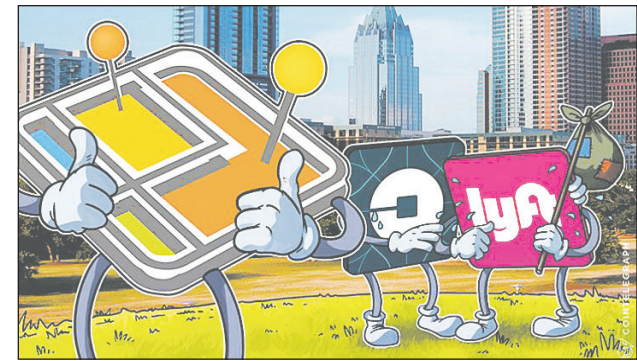


Photo courtesy of Coin Telegraph

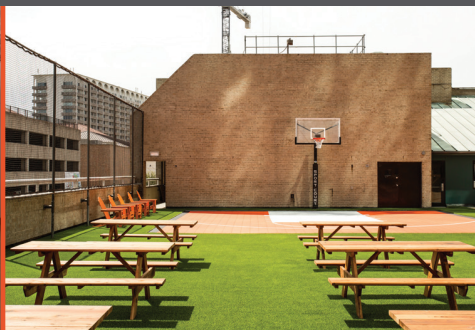
The departure of Uber and Lyft from Austin has prompted the creation of Arcade City, a Facebook tool that allows passengers to interact directly with drivers to arrange rides.

"I have now written two letters to the Mayor's office asking to sit down with them and discuss a mutual agreement and work on operating under their good graces," said

Green. "However, I have not received one response from the city in over two weeks now. The city is effectively ignoring us at the same time as trying to hunt us down, which we take

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The secret of change is to focus all of your energy, not on fighting the old, but on building the new. -Socrates



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COLUMN

Political dating sites offer little worth loving

By Natalia Ruiz
Daily Texan Columnist

Everything is going well on your Tinder date — until she mentions banning immigrants of an entire religion from the United States. Or perhaps you're tired of going to your favorite artisanal locally sourced kombucha and hemp seed oil cafe and finding out all the cool baristas are feelin' the Bern. Maybe you're exhausted by American politics — not enough to resort to escapism, but enough to dream of a nice Canadian who'll treat you right and never ask your opinion on the birthplace of our president.

Worry no more. Internet savvy heroes who care about you and the frightening possibility that you might have to meet someone outside of your comfort zone (or, God forbid, listen to a differing opinion) have addressed these issues. Now you can skip past talking to supporters who are diametrically opposed to you, and meet potential friends and/or lovers through political dating sites such as BernieSingles, TrumpSingles and MapleMatch.

Curious as to whether these sites were mere jokes or actual platforms for connection, I made a profile on each and scoured the sites for matches. What I found was mildly disappointing but very amusing.

The first site to gain popularity, BernieSingles was launched earlier this year and promises, or perhaps threatens, "The 1% are not the only ones getting screwed this election season." Despite the fact that Bernie Sanders failed to get the Democratic nomination, the site boasts a community of 13,278 members and counting. It is easily the most developed, with a wide array of subgroups like "Gamers' Dank Bernie Group" and "LG-BTQIA+ Berners" you can join. This is the best of the bunch, but mostly because of novelty.

Unbelievably, very few people seem to take this TrumpSingles seriously. My free account only allows me to view the picture of the 913 matches I've made with 100 percent compatibility and send a message a day. I received winks despite

“

Curious as to whether these sites were mere jokes or actual platforms for connection, I made a profile on each and scoured the sites for matches. What I found was mildly disappointing but very amusing.

having Marilyn Manson as my profile picture, and most of the matches were not listed under real names. This site is best avoided, since the guy named "No really" is probably not going to wink back, and it will cost you five dollars a month to even view profiles. Any amusement derived from the site comes from browsing through hundreds of photos of similar looking men and the odd unflattering action shot of Donald Trump.

MapleMatch was created by an Austinite in order to match Americans to Canadians, so the former can flee the country via green card marriage if Trump wins the election. Although it boasts a waiting list with thousands of people on it, I am not sure this site will actually launch (although its administrators recently announced that they would grant access to a lucky few Americans through a raffle on the Fourth of July). I'm still hoping the site launches so I can find my Justin Trudeau lookalike before November.

All told, these sites are clever — people tend to be attracted to others who hold the same or similar values, and Trump and Sanders represent two extreme and distinct ideologies. That being said, the sites exemplify the double-edged sword of how the internet enables people to curate who and what they expose themselves to. Through the internet, people are more easily able to find others with niche interests — imagine the struggle of a furry trying to find like-minded friends without it.

While it is nice to surround yourself with

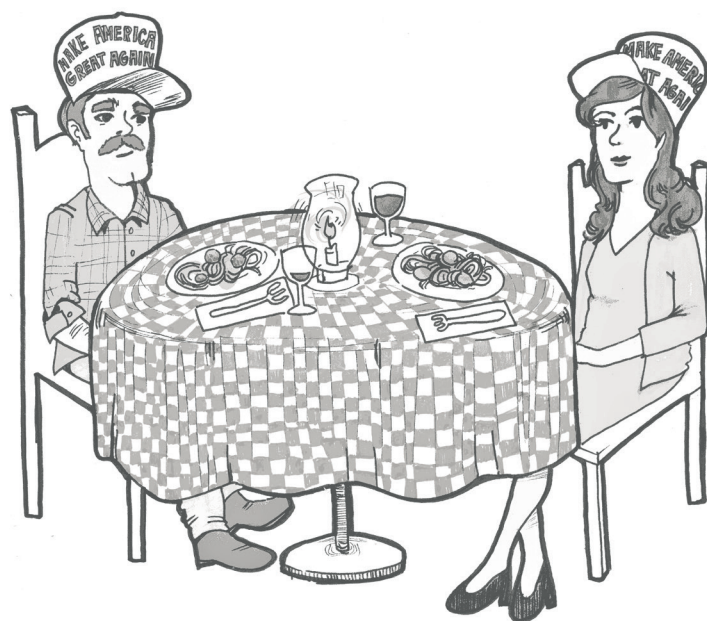


Illustration by Amber Perry | Daily Texan Staff

people on the same page as you politically, doing so encourages a close-minded attitude over time. Common ground can only be found through mingling with people with various takes on a subject. When it comes to media and news, people tend to favor publications with political leanings that match their own. But just because you ignore the other side does not mean it will fade away or change.

The fact that people are voting against a candidate rather than for a candidate indicates that they are likely to judge a prospective romantic interest for holding differing political convictions. If someone is voting for Trump as a means to vote against Clinton, then they are less than likely to date a Clinton supporter. The creator of TrumpSingles claims that he knew of people who were rejected romantically once their partners learned that they supported Trump, and MapleMatch only exists because of the negative feelings people hold towards Trump.

“

While it is nice to surround yourself with people on the same page as you politically, doing so encourages a close-minded attitude over time.

Very few people seem to take these dating sites seriously. But the sites do reflect how people hold biases against others who support candidates that they find repulsive. While there still seems to be an eternity before election day, the end is just over the horizon. In the meantime, there's no sense in digging even deeper trenches between parties who are supposed to work in conjunction when our next president is elected.

Ruiz is a Plan II and English junior from Houston.

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MEN'S BASKETBALL

Jonathan Holmes ready for another shot at NBA dreams

By Ezra Siegel

@SiegelEzra

Jonathan Holmes poked the ball loose from Portland guard Allen Crabbe and dove on the floor after it. It's a play he's made countless times.

But this time, he stayed down on the hardwood. The former Longhorn standout clutched his right shoulder, grimacing in pain.

An X-ray revealed Holmes tore his right labrum during that preseason game between the Los Angeles Lakers and Portland Trail Blazers last October. Doctors told him he would need six months to recover. The Lakers waived him a few days later.

"It was crushing for him," former teammate Connor Lammert said. "I was watching the game and I saw the injury and I thought, 'That's Jon Holmes' kind of play' ... it was a bummer."

But a return may be on the horizon. On June 28 Holmes signed a contract with the Memphis Grizzlies to play in the Las Vegas Summer League, which starts on Friday. If he performs well, he may find himself on another training camp roster in September.

Last year, Holmes took a gamble when he found out he wasn't taken in the NBA Draft's first round. After consulting with his agent, he told interested second-round teams not to select him. He didn't want to be bound to teams that would likely send him overseas or to the NBA Development League.

Instead, Holmes wanted to control his path by choosing his team as an undrafted free agent.

"Draft night, my mindset changed," Holmes said. "I knew



Daulton Venglar | Daily Texan file photo

Jonathan Holmes dribbles the ball against a Butler defender on March 19, 2015. Holmes will play for the Memphis Grizzlies in this year's NBA Summer League in Las Vegas.

I could go overseas on my own. We just decided to go out to Summer League and show that I can play."

And Holmes showed it with the Boston Celtics during last year's Summer League. He averaged 12.2 points while shooting a blistering 56 percent from the field. The performance landed him a trip to Los Angeles to play for the Lakers.

"[Last summer] was a special thing," Holmes said. "Being around guys that have been in the league and I have watched play for so long and interacting with them and building relationships with them ... it helped me out a lot."

But Holmes' tenure out West was cut short — the shoulder injury came just a minute into his second preseason appearance. He tried to make the best of his unlucky situation by returning to Austin to finish his degree and bond with family.

"The motivation is definitely there," Lammert said. "He got a little taste of [the NBA] and he wants to get back just as bad if not more than he did last year."

Since getting cleared for

activity in the spring, Holmes spent four days per week with Lammert working out at Train 4 the Game, an Austin fitness facility. The two focus on functional exercises to tune their bodies for basketball. Holmes also shoots in open gyms to "get back in a rhythm" for his NBA return.

Former teammate Isaiah Taylor expects Holmes to stick in the NBA. He said coaches and teammates will cherish Holmes for his gritty, team-first attitude.

"He just plays out of his heart every day," Taylor said. "He doesn't care about his stats. He's just going to go out there and give his all."

Holmes feels confident that he will prove himself this summer. And this time, he hopes to end up healthy on an NBA regular season roster.

"[Being away from basketball] made me realize how much I like to play," Holmes said. "It's a privilege to play and be in the positions that I've been in. I just try to take advantage of every [opportunity]."

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HOUSING: SUPPLY AND DEMAND

WEST CAMPUS

University House sits at West 21st and San Antonio Streets. University House is set to open for the upcoming Fall.



Emmanuel Brisenio
Daily Texan Staff

New apartments arrive in West Campus

By Brianna Stone
@bristone19

Among all the construction around campus are new modern mid and high-rise apartments, creating new living options for UT students.

Several new housing projects are underway in West Campus, a popular area for many UT students. These new projects include The Ruckus, University House, The Corner at West Campus and Skyloft, adding a total of more than 1,500 beds to West Campus, according to the Austin American-Statesman.

Realtor Samuel Njigwa who works for West Campus Living, a real estate agency that offers free service to students, said leasing season begins in November and continues through July.

West Campus is very popular to UT students because of the location and amenities, Njigwa said.

The Ruckus will be a seven-story building at 2502 Nueces St. and have 45 units ranging from two to five bedrooms. Construction begins this summer and is expected to wrap up August 2017.

University House, at the corner of West 21st and San Antonio Streets, is nearing completion and set to house students for the upcoming fall semester. The 20-story apartment building was built on land that had belonged to the University Lutheran Student Center since 1971, according to the Statesman.

Exercise science sophomore Isabel Alvarado said she chose to live at University House for the upcoming year because it is a part of the Safe Mixed Income Accessible Reasonably Priced Transit Oriented (S.M.A.R.T.) Housing program, which is designed to stimulate the production of housing for residents with low and moderate income. Students can qualify for S.M.A.R.T. Housing based on financial aid and scholarships.

"I think one of the main pros is the fact that [University House] is very close to campus," Alvarado said. "One con is that it is pricey."

The Corner at West Campus located at 2504 San Gabriel St., is an eight-story building with two underground stories of parking also set to open for the fall semester. Sixty-two apartment units from one to five bedrooms will total 207 beds.

Skyloft, at 507 W. 23rd St., will begin construction soon and is expected to open in summer 2018, featuring a total of 212 units with 677 beds.

Rheana Thakkar, psychology junior and leasing agent for Housing Scout said most students want to find the cheapest place to live that is closest to campus, but location often outweighs all other living preferences. She also added that close proximity to campus is the greatest benefit of living in West Campus.

"[Students] tend to enjoy certain amenities such as free parking, a washer and dryer, and furnishings, but time and time again the most important thing for students tends to be location," Thakkar said.

CAMPUS

Students struggle with housing amidst UH

By Anusha Lalani
@anusha_lalani

Students in search of on-campus housing at the University are having an exceptionally difficult time doing so due to the high demand of students applying and a shortage of spaces.

In the 2016-17 academic year, the University received 11,977 applications for on-campus housing with only 7,400 beds available, according to the Division of Housing and Food Services' communications and marketing coordinator Alison Kothe. From those students that applied this year, 6,858 have accepted their housing contract and 790 are currently on the waitlist.

Although it's known that spaces are limited and based off of a first-come-first-serve basis, students tend to apply for on-campus housing due to the convenience of living on campus.

"I wanted to live on campus because my parents and I felt it was the best way to transition into college and also to get a full experience my freshman year," said incoming business freshman Sonia Oommen, who is staying on-campus her first year. "It's also a great way for me to be close to everything happening on campus."

To ensure the University was able to provide housing for everyone, applications for housing had to be submitted by May 4.

"The reason we did [the deadline] was simply because we saw how many students had already applied and how many students had already accepted our housing contract, and we didn't want students to continue to apply for housing if it was not likely that we would reach them," Kothe said.

Once the application is turned in and students receive their housing contract, another deadline is provided on the contract so that the University is able to keep account of how many students are planning on staying on campus.

Kothe also said the University offers supplemental housing in order to accommodate the vast number of students applying for dorms. Supplemental housing involves spaces in residence halls being converted to dorms that include the same furniture a regular dorm would have. If a low number of students apply to live on-campus and supplemental housing is not needed, those spaces are used as lounges for students.

DEMAND

to find on-campus T room shortage



Every year the University along with the division of student affairs will look at the pricing of all of the services on campus ... this year the main type of room we have on campus, which is a shared room with community bath, that price this year will be \$10,223 that includes ... everything.

—Alison Kothe,
DHFS coordinator

“The great thing about having those types of spaces, is that in a year when we do have a lot of students who are wanting to live on campus, it gives us the ability to continue that on-campus housing experience,” Kothe said.

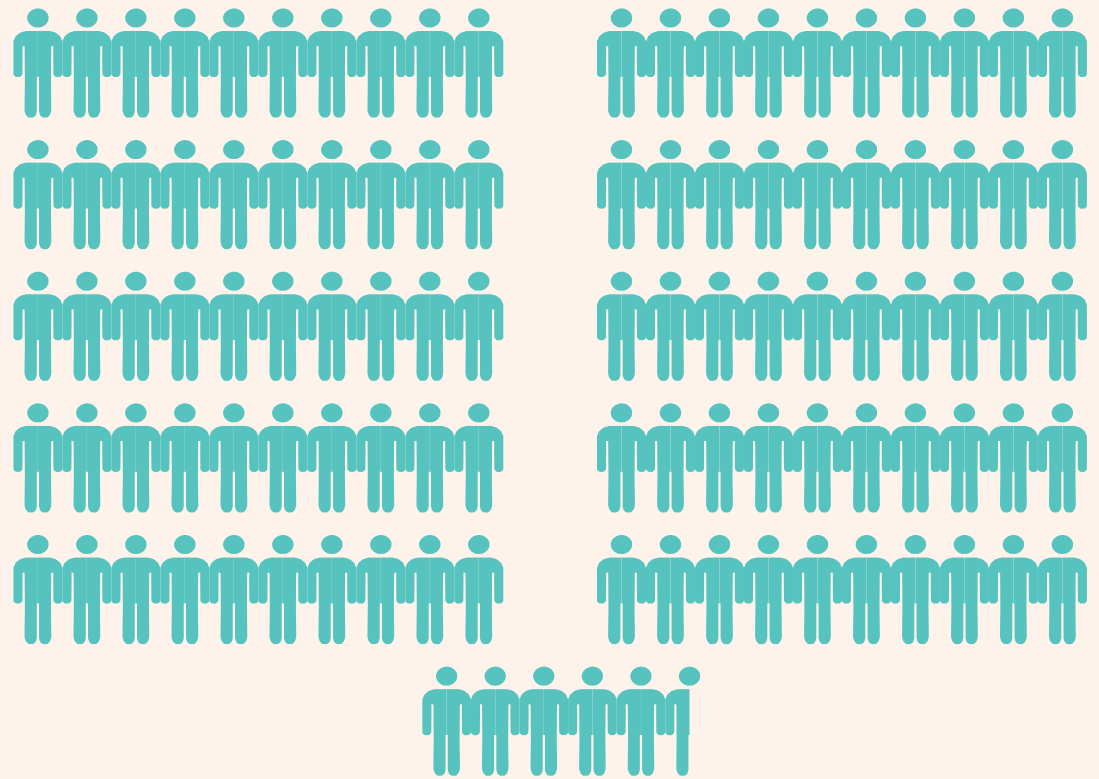
Although dorms are popular among incoming freshman, students tend to move offcampus after their first year due to the pricing of dorms. Visual art studies junior Tanya Gantiva, who lived at Jester Dormitoryw her freshman year, said dorms provide a small room that students have to share, along with a meal plan that’s unhealthy for health-conscious people.

“On-campus housing in general was very expensive in comparison to off-campus housing,” Gantiva said. “Off campus, I have my own room, my own kitchen, living room, everything so it just seemed almost like, ‘why would you live on campus?’”

Kothe said the pricing for on-campus housing varies depending upon the services the University provides that academic year.

“Every year the University along with the Division of Student Affairs will look at the pricing of all of the services on campus and some years there’s a price change and some years there’s not,” Kothe said. “This year the main type of room we have on campus, which is a shared room with community bath, that price this year will be \$10,223 that includes the meal plan, taxes and everything. Last year that type of space was \$9,714.”

10,574 housing applicants for 2016-2017



6,858 accepted housing contracts

790 remain waitlisted

7,400 available beds

Source: Alison Kothe, DHFS coordinator

BIOLOGY

UT curator identifies Mexican catfish in Texas

By Amman Waseem

@thedailytexan

An eyeless catfish with translucent skin, never before seen in the U.S., was identified in Texas this May.

The finding of the endangered fish, which was previously only seen in Mexico, supports the theory that water-filled tunnels and pores connect Mexico and Texas portions of the Edwards-Trinity Aquifer.

Dean Hendrickson, curator of ichthyology at The University of Texas

at Austin, said the tunnel system within the aquifers allowed the fish to travel from Mexico to the U.S. underground.

"As a result of the connection, it is the first time that a foreign endangered species has turned up naturally occurring in the U.S., then immediately had legal endangered species protection under the U.S. government," said Hendrickson.

Hendrickson identified the fish as the Mexican blindcat (*Prietella phreatophila*). The fish was dis-

covered in the deep waters of a limestone cave at Amistad National Recreation Area near Del Rio, Texas. Previously, the blindcat has only been spotted in caves and springs in the northern Mexican state of Coahuila.

To locate a living blindcat in Texas, Hendrickson worked with the National Park Service and Zara Environmental, an environmental consulting company. The blindcat was captured after five separate expeditions involving hiking through the desert, rappelling down narrow caves and free diving underground water holes.

Sporting a pale pinkish color due to the visibility of blood through its translucent skin, the Mexican blindcat grows no more than four inches in length. It is now one of three blind catfish species found within the United States.

"The blindcat has the peculiar quality of floating like a dead fish near the surface in order to conserve energy," Hendrickson said. "They are fascinating creatures that point clues to evolutionary pressures of underwater cavernous systems."

Jean Krejca, owner of Zara Environmental, helped oversee the expeditions to find the catfish.

"The blindcat is difficult to detect because it's only by chance that it may swim into a cave accessible to humans,"



Photo courtesy of Danté Fenolio

UT curator Dean Hendrickson identified the Mexican blindcat catfish. The fish was discovered in the waters of a limestone cave at Amistad National Recreation Area near Del Rio, Texas.

Krejca said. "Ninety-five percent of its habitat is in tiny holes of rock formations deep within the earth."

Although Krejca was part of the team leading the expeditions, it was Peter Sprouse, vice president of Zara Environmental, and Jack Johnson, the National Park Service resource manager at Amistad, who captured the fish. Johnson first spotted the fish during a routine cave inventory in spring 2015, and he proceeded to work with Hendrickson and Zara Environmental to officially document the catfish.

"Any conservation efforts for cave dwelling species is in our self interest because their livelihood is a good indicator of water quality in various

“They are fascinating creatures that point clues to evolutionary pressures of underwater cavernous systems.”

—Dean Hendrickson,

Curator of ichthyology at The University of Texas at Austin

areas," Sprouse said. "The important steps are now to determine where the species thrive."

Hendrickson hopes to develop a program for extensive water sampling using a DNA technique called eDNA to detect the extent of Mexican blindcat populations. eDNA is a newly developed procedure that identifies DNA of target species using water, dirt or feces samples.

"Finding DNA fragments from the blind catfish in caves where we cannot physically see them will confirm their

presence and identify their locational reach," Hendrickson said.

The specimens collected in May have been relocated to a facility in the San Antonio Zoo's Department of Conservation and Research designed to care for cave-dwelling aquifer organisms.

"Steps moving forward include gene sequencing to verify their scientific name," said Krejca. "I was stoked when we found it, but research and conservation efforts are now key objectives ahead that may provide more surprises."

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STUDENT LIFE

Capoeira helps female students, alumni find self-empowerment

By Elena Mejia
@elenamejialutz

Raised in a conservative Christian household, Amanda Caroline was out of touch with her Afro-Brazilian roots. But after studying abroad in Salvador Bahia, Brazil, Caroline found her passion in martial arts.

Caroline, a Ph.D. student in African and African diaspora studies, practices capoeira, an Afro-Brazilian martial art “played” by two capoeiristas who are surrounded by people singing and playing music in a circle, or “roda.” Although capoeira is referred to as a “jogo,” or game, it was historically created as an illicit art by black slaves in Brazil.

“Capoeira has a lot of historical significance for black people in Brazil,” Caroline said. “Because of its history, it was created as a disguise of warfare but also a communal space for community and spirituality. All these things combined make a very powerful art.”

Capoeira mixes aerobics with quick moves such as spins and kicks without physical contact, while the people who are surrounding the “jogo” sing in Portuguese and play instruments.

Caroline, who moved from São Paulo, Brazil to Massachusetts when she was six years old, said capoeira is known to be a male-dominated sport, but that she overcame the gender barrier and excelled in her physical training at Austin’s Capoeira Luanda.

“They train with us just like if we were guys,” Caroline said. “They go easy on me not because I’m a woman, but because I’m at a lower level. The day that I learn how to play, they’ll play with me full board.”

UT alumna Quentishia Guy was introduced to capoeira when she was studying abroad in Rio de Janeiro. Most of the members in her local training center, Capoeira Evolução, are male. But even though she was one of the few girls in her class, her instructor convinced her to stay in 2013 despite the added challenge.

“I tried it for about a week, and there were lots of things that I couldn’t do,” Guy said. “The day I thought it was going to be my last, one of the instructors challenged me and said, ‘If you were a baby and you were walking and falling, did you keep crawling for the rest of your life or did you keep walking?’ So I just kept on going throughout the years.”

After doing a project on the Brazilian music scene in Austin, UT alumna Brittany Schulze found herself becoming more interested in capoeira. Schulze, also a member of Capoeira Evolução, said capoeira is still a male-dominated sport, but she sees a lot of women who attend regularly in her training center, including an all-girls class.

“Historically all of the ‘mestres’ are male,” Schulze said. “In the songs, you don’t hear much about women,

“

The music is really alive and gives you a lot of energy. It helps you to keep going and keep training and keep playing the game.

—Brittany Schulze,
UT alumna

but women are rising the ranks in capoeira.”

Schulze said that capoeira built her strength physically, emotionally and mentally after she gave birth to her son and suffered from gestational diabetes, a disease that can develop during pregnancy.

“It makes me feel really strong, but at the same time, it’s a way to express myself creatively,” Schulze said. “The music is really alive and gives you a lot of energy. It helps you to keep going and keep training and keep playing the game.”

Even though there is no physical contact during “jogo,” Caroline said she still learns how to use her body as a powerful weapon, given the intense physical training of martial arts.

“I’m a woman, I’m 5’2,” I get constantly harassed by men,” Caroline said. “With capoeira, you can kick a weapon out of someone’s hand. But the ‘game’ is a very spiritual practice. You’re taking care of yourself holistically in a joyful and uplifting way.”



Rachel Zein | Daily Texan Staff

UT alumna Brittany Schulze practices capoeira, an Afro-Brazilian martial art, at Capoeira Evolução in South Austin.

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Seeing stars: Drive-in revitalizes classic film experience

By Elena Mejia
@elenamejalutz

For their six-month anniversary, Josh Frank and his girlfriend wanted to create their own personal movie theater. Using a building on Cesar Chavez Street as the screen, they projected "Grease" and watched the American musical classic from the comfort of their car.

Frank's outdoor date night later evolved into Blue Starlite, Austin's only urban drive-in theater. The mini drive-in, which opened in 2010, can fit up to 50 cars on its three-acre property.

"After watching 'Grease,' we thought that we would totally pay for doing something like this," Frank said. "That's how the idea of the drive-in

was born."

In 1997, Frank earned a film degree from SUNY Purchase College in New York and returned to his hometown of Austin to start an independent theater company. Frank tried to support himself as an artist by working at Austin Java and teaching at Dougherty Arts Center and the Jewish Community Center.

When he met his future wife in 2009, Frank started looking for more sustainable jobs. Although he expected the drive-in to last only about four weeks, it thrived. This year, it celebrates its sixth anniversary.

"I really enjoyed putting up independent plays with my theater company to give people unique experiences," Frank said. "That's what I aim to do with the drive-in."

Although drive-ins in the 1950s were typically set on large properties outside of the city, Frank said Blue Starlite is different because it is smaller and in the middle of the metropolitan area.

"It's a more intimate, unique experience than what a lot of people remember," Frank said. "It has a new twist."

Frank said this updated approach is appealing to a new generation of moviegoers because the privacy of their cars lets them use their cellphones and talk throughout the film. It also keeps them away from children who might be distracting in regular movie theaters.

"Because of the technology and speed in which we live, we don't like turning off," Frank said. "It's an old-school way of watching movies that solves newer problems for millennials."

Blue Starlite also serves hot dogs, fresh-popped popcorn and s'mores, which attendees can purchase before watching films.



A couple watches a film at Blue Starlite, an urban drive-in theatre in northeast Austin. Josh Frank, owner of the drive-in, founded Blue Starlite to provide a unique and intimate moviegoing experience for Austinites.

Rachel Zein
Daily Texan Staff

Alexandra Young, a neuroscience senior, said her experience at the drive-in was a better alternative to her usual movie date night.

"Sometimes you don't feel like watching old movies, but this time was different for me and my boyfriend," Young said. "I hadn't watched 'Hook' since I was a kid, and it really brought a lot of good memories. The whole concept of the drive-in just blends well with Austin's culture."

Blue Starlite opened another movie theater in Miami two years ago, and Frank will drive to Vail, Colorado, this summer to test another location. He said he wants to keep the main flagship in Austin, but hopes to experiment by bringing theaters to other places.

Since summer is Blue Starlite's peak season, the drive-in features a "summer signature series" with all-time favorites from different genres. "Indiana Jones" and "Twister" are

some of the action films on the list, while movies such as "Goonies" encourage a more family-based setting. Either way, Frank chooses to feature classics only.

"You can see modern movies everywhere," Frank said. "Those are good too, but finding a way of bringing back your favorite movies you grew up watching and looking for ways to go back to how you first saw them — that's what the Blue Starlite is about."

Blue Starlite
mini urban
Drive-In

Twister – July 8

Helen Hunt and Bill Paxton star as husband and wife storm chasers in "Twister." Competing against a rival team of storm researchers, they study tornadoes to create a more advanced weather warning system. But they can't hope to succeed if they don't overcome their own marital issues first.

"Twister" may not be scientifically accurate, but it's a fun ride that sweeps in and blows you away.

Raiders of the Lost Ark – July 9 and 15



The first Indiana Jones movie, "Raiders of the Lost Ark" is a phenomenal action picture with character, spectacle and humor.

On this adventure, the famed archaeologist (Harrison Ford) races against the Nazis to uncover the Ark of the Covenant. Armed with his trusty whip and donning his fedora, Indy encounters a deadly swordsman, a snake-infested tomb and a supernatural power that could destroy the world.

¡Three Amigos! – July 16 and 22

The Amigos, three silent film stars are mistaken for heroes they portray on screen when they end up in a small Mexican village ruled by a cruel gang. They soon become embroiled in a conflict with the thugs and decide to save the town.

Comedy legends Steve Martin, Chevy Chase and Martin Short are likable leads in this light picture, and the writing is suitably sharp and funny. The film does run on the long side, though, and the premise is too thin to sustain the running time. Some viewers won't mind, though, because "¡Three Amigos!" is still enjoyable popcorn fare.

Short Circuit – July 16



"Short Circuit" follows military prototype Number Five, an alien who is given free will when he's struck by lightning. Five seeks shelter with an animal caretaker and spends most of the movie evading capture by the military. While the film isn't for those looking for something emotionally deep, "Short Circuit" is a family-friendly excursion with a big heart.





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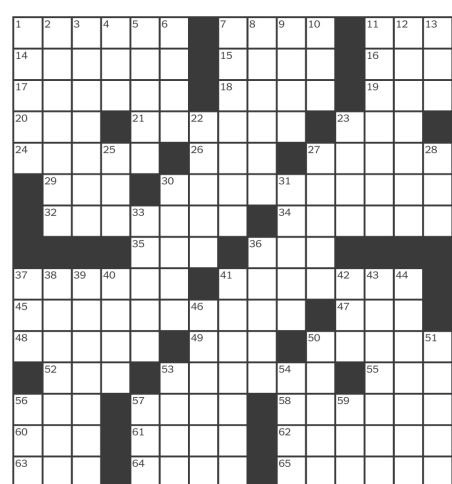
Edited by Will Shortz No. 0601

- ACROSS**
- 1 Screwed up big-time
 - 7 Early 10th-century year
 - 11 Fit to be tied
 - 14 Dickinson with a modeling agency
 - 15 Leisure
 - 16 Fire truck accessory
 - 17 Rock's Blue ____ Cult
 - 18 Scott in 1857 news
 - 19 ____ de la Cité
 - 20 Triple Crown stat
 - 21 Eventually
 - 23 Orch. section
 - 24 Supreme Court justice who replaced Stevens
 - 26 U.N. agcy. that promotes "decent work for all women and men"
 - 27 ____ Islands (autonomous part of Denmark)
 - 29 G.O.P. org.
 - 30 Well-wisher's wish
 - 32 Erik of "CHiPs"
 - 34 Gives the slip
 - 35 Ariz.-to-Kan. direction
 - 36 ____-mo replay
 - 37 Odin's realm
 - 41 Muscle builder for Popeye
 - 45 Mark in the intersection of 19-Across and 11-Down
 - 47 Coffeehouse combo, often
 - 48 Lightning Bolt
 - 49 "Footloose" hero ____ McCormack
 - 50 To a degree, informally
 - 52 Denouement
 - 53 Awaited a tongue depressor, maybe
 - 55 Tempe sch.
 - 56 12 meses
 - 57 "You ____?" (butler's line)

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

H	A	S	H	H	O	L	E	R	E	H	A	B
E	L	M	O	A	M	E	N	E	R	O	D	E
R	O	U	T	L	I	A	M	P	I	V	O	T
B	U	T	T	O	F	T	H	E	J	O	K	E
				E	L	M		S	O	S		R
				H	E	A	D	O	F	T	H	E
				S	E	X		S	O	A	R	
				P	A	P	A	N	A	A	C	P
				E	V	E	R		S	H	O	
				N	E	C	K	O	F	T	H	E
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				E	Y	E	O	F	T	H	E	S
				P	E	D	A	L		F	O	
				H	A	L	L	E		E	D	
				D	R	Y	E	R		T	O	

- DOWN**
- 1 One-named singer from Iceland
 - 2 Expose for all to see
 - 3 Midshipmen, after commission
 - 4 Jokester
 - 5 Strand at a ski lodge, maybe
 - 6 Migratory seabird
 - 7 Mark in the intersection of 58-Across and 43-Down
 - 8 Rocky Mountains rodent
 - 9 "Gotcha"
 - 10 Struck (out)
 - 11 Restaurant V.I.P.
 - 12 Frontman of the "Welcome to the Jungle" band
 - 13 Poor grade
 - 22 Mark in the intersection of 56-Across and 38-Down
 - 23 "Elephant Boy" boy
 - 25 Don't just sit there
 - 27 Arsonist, e.g.



PUZZLE BY WREN SCHULTZ

- 28 Alf and Mork, for short
- 30 The N.C.A.A.'s Aggies, informally
- 31 DNA strand shape
- 33 Any airing of "Friends," now
- 36 Pass, as time
- 37 Prefix with pressure
- 38 Opposite of "No way, José!?"
- 39 What may be in a breakfast bar
- 40 Pepto-Bismol target
- 41 Deceptive dexterity
- 42 Hoopla
- 43 Neighbor of Aruba
- 44 Steaming bowlful
- 46 Champagne's place
- 50 "Tsk, tsk!"
- 51 Em and Polly, in literature
- 53 Mentally together
- 54 Contents of un lago
- 56 Boxing's "Louisville Lip"
- 57 Backboard attachment
- 59 "Treasure Island" monogram

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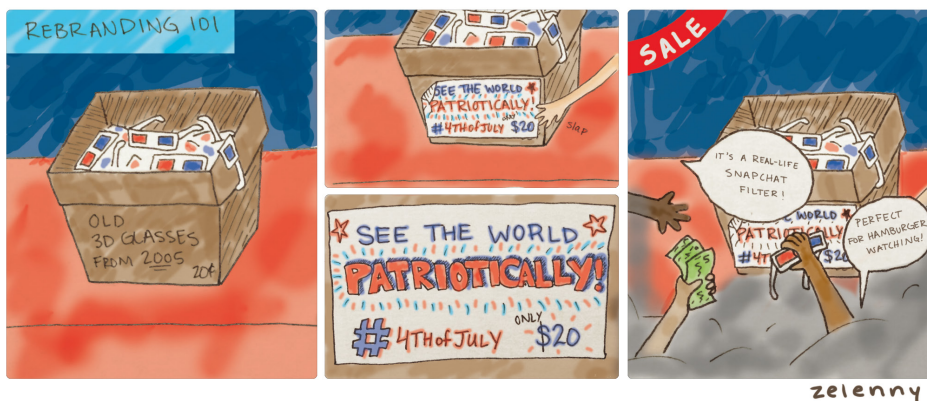
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